

WHAT'S UP, DACH?

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By Amy Stover, PAO, 286-7954

HOT News

JCAHO To Visit In April

DACH will undergo a mock JCAHO survey Apr 14-17. There will be a separate behavioral health surveyor here from 14-15 April 14-15. Surveyors are actual JCAHO surveyors and results of the mock survey are briefed to GPRMC.

For more information, please contact Deborah La Pointe at 288-8882.

MEDDAC Happenings

Santa Fe Ramp To Close

Beginning Feb. 7, the gate at Santa Fe and Wratten will close indefinitely. Beginning Feb. 7, please allow appropriate time to get to work through the main gate.

Force Protection Measures Change

Earlier this month the guards were removed from the entrances to our facility. However, there are still only two main entrances to the hospital, the front main entrance and the emergency room.

Other entrances in our facility are for emergency use only. The Loading Dock entrance is not to be used for entry or exit to our facility at any time.

Please continue to use the front and emergency entrances only.

Commander's Corner



Darnall Staff,

As you've seen on the news and heard from co-workers, a lot has happened in our world in the past couple weeks.

Many soldiers from this installation are preparing to deploy, including many members of our staff. As they prepare for a possible war with Iraq, tensions are running high, both in the office and at home. Please remember to keep your deploying colleagues and their families in mind in the upcoming weeks.

As we are mobilizing for war, many of our providers and ancillary staff have already left the hospital for their PROFIS units. We are entering what is known as the gap period, the time when our staff has left, but reservists have not arrived to take their place. Because we are short-staffed, I have changed the appointment schedule in the family care clinics. Acute same day appointments will have priority over routine follow-up and wellness appointments. Follow-up and wellness appointments will be scheduled as space allows.

World events have increased the stress level at Fort Hood and our patients are feeling that stress. The person our patients have to turn to for healthcare concerns is the patient representative, the patient's advocate. When Cheryl Turner or someone from her office comes to your area to address a patient concern, please listen to her and support her. She is striving to make us Number 1 in the eyes of our patients and she cannot do that without support from the divisions and departments.

Thank you for all your hard work,

Col. Donald J. Kasperik

Training Opportunities

EMT Refresher Course

The EMT Refresher Course is scheduled for Feb. 10-13. This will be the only refresher course offered for those whose certification expires in February or March.

For more information on the course and recertification requirements, please contact SFC Alvarado at 286-7236.

Customer Service Class

The next customer service class is scheduled for Feb. 21 from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the hospital auditorium.

For more information, please call Cheryl Turner at 288-8156.

PALS Class Full

The Pediatric Advanced Life Support class scheduled for February is full. The next PALS class will be offered in May. To register for that class, please call 286-7224.

Respirator/TB Testing and Training

The next Respirator/TB Test and Training is scheduled for Feb. 12 in the Darnall Family Care Clinic conference room 1-3 p.m. These classes usually take place on the second Wednesday of the month. Please call the Safety Office at 288-8477 or 286-7381 to reserve a slot.

Patient Safety Lecture

The next patient safety lecture is scheduled for Feb. 10 from 12-1 p.m. in the auditorium. The topic for the class is Legal Liability. The lecture will be given by the hospital's legal counselor, Gary Manuele.. If you attend, be sure to annotate it in your human resource folder as "Patient Safety Training." Please call 286-7097 if you have questions.

Congrats to Holiday Door Decorating Contest Winners

Congratulations to all the work areas that showed "care and concern" by decorating their doorways for the holiday season. The winners are:

Best Overall - Ward 5 E

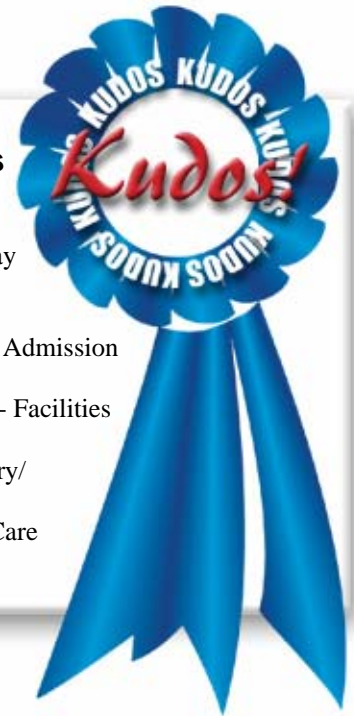
Administrative Area 1st Runner-up - Admission & Disposition (PAD)

Administrative Area 2nd Runner-up - Facilities Branch (Logistics)

Outpatient 1st Runner-up - Pulmonary/Population Health Clinic (DOM)

Outpatient 2nd Runner-up - Family Care Clinic - Darnall (DFCM)

Inpatient - no entries except 5E



Did You Know?

New Login Procedures

The migration to the new Login Servers is complete. If you have not already logged into the AMED Domain, please logout and reboot your computer.

When prompted to login, select the AMED Domain. Do not login to the CEN Domain. If you have problems, please contact the Help Desk at 288-8555.

Officer Hail and Farewell

The next Hail and Farewell is scheduled for Feb. 11 at the Phantom Warrior Center from 5 to 7 p.m. Families are encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Maj. Stacy Roth at 288-8730.

Deploying Medical Corps Branch Officers

Deploying Medical Corps Branch officers, if you have not already done so, you may sign early for your bonus contract for July. Please call Ms. Todd at 286-7261.

Upcoming Ethnic Programs

The Hospital's EO office is planning for a Black History Month program in February and a Women's History Month program in March. If you have any ideas or would like to assist, please contact SFC Graham at 286-7180 or Mrs. Jackson at 288-8345.



Military Health System Notice of Privacy Practices

The Military Health System (MHS) Notice of Privacy Practices is provided as a requirement under the Privacy Rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996.

Although the MHS has always had privacy and patient confidentiality standards in place to limit unauthorized access or disclosure of personal health information, the new privacy rule provides TRICARE beneficiaries with additional safeguards for ensuring their health information is adequately protected and is used by the MHS and TRICARE to provide quality patient care.

The Notice explains how MHS may use and share your personal health information to carry out treatment, payment of services and health care operations. Other reasons allowed or required by law are also referred to in the Notice. The Notice explains your rights to read and control your protected health information and explains the responsibility MHS has to protect you, the beneficiary.

Personal health information may be about your past, present or future physical or mental health or condition and relates to health care services. It could include your age, ethnicity, or other personal statistics. You have the right to do the following:

- Read and copy your personal health information,
- Ask for limits to be put on the use or sharing of your health information,
- Ask that communications about your personal health information be done through ways that further protect your privacy,
- Ask to have corrections made to your personal health information, and
- Get a listing of where and when your personal health information was shared.

The Notice will be mailed to all TRICARE sponsors beginning in December 2002. During a future military treatment facility visit, you will be asked to sign a medical record jacket label acknowledging receipt of that Notice. This is so the MHS can make certain that all TRICARE beneficiaries have been informed of their right to the privacy of their personal health information. Your acknowledgment of receipt of the Notice in no way affects your eligibility to receive care. Privacy Officers are available at each MTF to address any questions or concerns.

If you do not receive a copy of the MHS Notice of Privacy Practices in the mail, you may view the MHS Notice of Privacy on line at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/hipaa>.

Quotes

Journeys

“The journey is the reward.”

Taoist saying

“I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I intended to be.”

Douglas Adams(1952-2001), science fiction author

“It is good to have an end to journey toward, but it is the journey that matters in the end.”

Ursula K. LeGuin, author and poet